11 chs. per para. The balance of one-half had alone to be paid in paddy. Now that the minority of Her Highness the Senior Rani was over, he prayed that the Government might be pleased to commute the remaining one-half also into money at 11 chs. per para and thus grant the Sreepadom ryots the long-wished for relief, in common with the other subjects of the State.

Dewan's reply.—The ryots should memorialise Her Highness the Senior Rani if they think they have any grievance. The Government cannot interfere.

3. The necessity for mentioning the survey numbers of properties in the tax-receipts granted to the ryots by Revenue officers.

Mr. Kanakku Chempakaraman Padmanabhan (Member, Karunagappalli taluk) said that, in the tax-receipts granted by Revenue officers, the survey numbers on which the tax was paid were not shown, and that, in consequence, the ryots were experiencing great difficulty in proving their possession of the lands. For instance, the lands covered by the patta in A's name might be in the enjoyment of three persons, B, C and D. The tax-receipts would only show the several amounts paid by B, C and D. If C trespassed on the land in the enjoyment of B and the latter preferred a criminal complaint, the court either dismissed the complaint or referred the parties to the civil courts for redress, on the ground of want of clear evidence as to possession. That was the case in the majority of instances. After the revenue settlement, the Government were insisting on the ryots specifying the survey numbers in the deeds relating to transactions affecting immovable property. That being so, the Member thought it was the more necessary that the Government should insist on the survey numbers being mentioned in the receipts granted by their officers for tax paid. For want of such an arrangement, the number of cases of criminal trespass, dacoity, assault and even murder was on the increase, and the change proposed would tend to considerably reduce such crimes. It would also afford to owners of properties indisputable evidence as to their actual possession. He therefore requested that arrangements might be made to show the survey numbers also in the tax-receipts.

[By the direction of the Dewan, Mr. R. Mahadeva Iyer, Dewan Peishkar on special duty, explained to the Member that, at present, even the *thandapers*, the most important of the revenue accounts, did not contain information about survey numbers and the tax payable on them. That being so, it would be difficult now to mention the survey numbers in the receipts. But, after a time, when the *thandapers* were written up fully, it would be possible to do so without much difficulty.]

The Member, continuing, said that, in the interests of the tax-paying ryots, the change proposed was very necessary, and he submitted a sample form of the tax-receipt as he would have it.

Dewan's reply.—The Division Peishkars and the Superintendent of the Devikulam Division will be asked to enquire into and report on the evils complained of by the Member and also say if the suggestion of the Member is practicable.

4. Certain matters connected with the treatment of poramboke lands on the sides of the Neyyar river.

Mr. Matheran Kesavan (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) first conveyed to the Dewan the thanks of the people of the taluk for the action taken in regard to the treatment of the lands on the sides of the Neyyar river, by G. O. No. 341/L. R. & F., dated the 23rd December 1913. But, in carrying out the orders of the Government, certain matters required attention, which were being overlooked by the local officers, and he wished to detail them one by one.

(1) The G. O. required only the level of the lands and the age of the trees standing thereon to be considered in deciding whether any land was a recent accretion or not. He said that the *measurement* should also be taken into account. Under para 34 of the demarcation rules, the stones had been planted far in the interior of the

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registered holdings adjoining the river, in order to prevent their being washed away by floods, and not at the exact places where the measurements ended. Only portions in excess of the extent of the registered area should therefore be considered as accretions. He requested that orders should issue to consider the measurement in addition to the level of the lands and the age of the trees.

(2) In some cases, trees which had been included in the pattas and already assessed were again being counted and taxed. Only unregistered lands were recorded as *porambоke* at the settlement and the trees on such lands were included in the *thanathuchitta*. In the case of the lands on the sides of the Neyyar river, no such account had been taken. It was in the land records maintenance that the lands were, for the first time, being treated as *porambokes*. That would be clear from the mahazars prepared by the local officers. Neither the surveyors who made the measurements nor the classifiers who counted the trees ever dreamt that any of the areas now treated as *porambokes* were really so. If so, there would have been some record to that effect.

(3) The Revenue officers were enumerating all new trees and trees that would soon cease to bear and charging assessment and back arrears. The arrears in many cases amounted to the price of the lands. The G. O. did not lay down what kind of trees should be taxed, and at what rate, and in consequence, *all* trees were being taxed. The above points required to be made clear to the local officers.

(4) There were several channels in Ottasekaramangalam, Perunkadavila and other places, besides the Neyyar. The G. O. should be made applicable to them as well.

(5) The G. O. was being interpreted to mean that it would affect only the *porambоke* cases pending disposal at the time of its issue. Many cases had been disposed of and others were in different stages of pendency. The G. O. should be given retrospective effect, so as to apply to all *porambоke* cases in the taluk.

(6) The trees on the bunds of paddy lands &c., registered in the names of ryots, could not be protected owing to the neglected condition of the bunds, which were treated as *porambokes*. The bunds should either be registered in the names of the ryots or arrangements made to maintain them in good condition.

(7) In the cases of all *porambokes* other than road-porambokes, action should first be taken under the Land Conservancy Regulation against the occupants, before launching criminal prosecutions, as was being done at present. Many of the so-called *porambokes* had been long in the enjoyment of the ryots, with costly buildings thereon and none of them had been acquired by the Government on payment of compensation.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be referred to the Peishkar of the Division, for remarks, with reference to G. O. No. 341/L. R. and F., dated the 23rd December 1913.

5. The need for adopting a more beneficent policy in respect of land and land-revenue.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Karunagappalli taluk) said that he would deal with the subject under four heads. The first point had reference to the registry of *puthuvals* (waste lands) in the names of Europeans and other foreign capitalists. At the outset, the Member said that he was dealing with the question with some feelings of delicacy and he requested that he should not be misunderstood. The people were very grateful to the British Government for the maintenance of law and order and for the prosperity the State enjoyed under British rule. But his justification for bringing forward the subject was that it was one of considerable importance in safeguarding the interests of the State and its population.

According to the last Census Report, as much as 66 per cent of the total population were agriculturists and the rest were also, in some way or other, dependent

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